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PATENT
1110-0212P

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Toru MATAMA

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Appl. No.: 09/209,751

Group: 2615

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Technology Center 2600

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 30, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects: (1) claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,596,346 to Leone et al. (hereafter Leone); (2) claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,420,699 to Yamanouchi et al. (hereafter Yamanouchi); (3) claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone in view of Yamanouchi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,407,777 to Deluca (hereafter Deluca); and (4) claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone. These rejections are respectfully traversed.